

B
B1

(d) calcining the dried extrudate resulting from step (c) thereby providing said catalyst.

B2

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the amine compound is added in step

(a) within 20 minutes of performing step (b).

B2

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the zeolite content, on a dry basis, is below 50 wt% as calculated on the finished catalyst and wherein further included in said first homogenous mixture is a powder of a low acidity refractory oxide binder material.

B3

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the low acidity refractory oxide binder material is silica.

B3

7. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the amine compound is ammonia.

B3

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of ZSM-5, ZSM-12, ZSM-22, ZSM-23, and SZZ-32.

B4

Please add the following new claims 17 through 25.

17. A method, comprising:

mixing a zeolite and an acid silica sol and forming a first homogeneous mixture having a pH below 7; and

adding to said first homogeneous mixture an amine compound in an amount so as to provide a resulting second mixture having a pH above 8 thereby forming an extrudable mass.

18. A method as recited in claim 17 wherein in said mixing step water is further mixed with said zeolite and said acid silica sol such that said extrudable mass has a water content not exceeding 60 percent.

19. A method as recited in claim 18 wherein in said mixing step silica powder is further mixed with said zeolite and said acid silica sol.

20. A method as recited in claim 19 wherein said zeolite is a metallosilicate.

21. A method as recited in claim 20 wherein said amine compound is a compound having the general formula of $R^1R^2R^3N$ wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are each either hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

22. A method as recited in claim 21 wherein said acid silica sol is a colloidal silica having a pH lower than 7.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

extruding said extrudable mass to form an extrudate;

drying said extrudate to form a dried extrudate; and

calcining said dried extrudate to form a catalyst.